ABSTRACT

Systems and methods for securely communicating multimedia information from one or more multimedia content sources to a plurality of end users are disclosed. In one preferred arrangement, the system includes a headend system, one or more signal distribution systems, and multiple customer interface devices.

The headend system receives multimedia information signals from one or more content sources and user authorization information corresponding to multiple end users, combines the multimedia information signals into a composite signal, and generates a secure headend output signal. The signal distribution systems include a signal splitter for dividing the secure headend output signal into a plurality of service signals, several signal decoders for converting the service signals into modulated channel signals if authorized by the user authorization information, and several output interfaces for combining the modulated channel signals into a composite user signal. Each customer interface device receives a corresponding composite user signal, and divides and demodulates the signal into end user signals for use by the end user.